

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00377 101449Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01

A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 /063 W

-----101500Z 106418 /53

R 101151Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 710

CONFIDENTIAL LILONGWE 0377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MI

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: LILONGWE 0321

1. REPORTS THAT A GROUP OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WOULD BE
RELEASED FOR MARTYR'S DAY, MARCH 3, PROVED CORRECT.

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL NUMBER VARY FROM 200-280. THERE HAS BEEN
NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY KIND OR STORY IN THE NEWS MEDIA.

2. WE HAVE REPORT FROM ONE OF THOSE RELEASED THAT PRIOR TO
RELEASE THEY WERE ASSEMBLED AND ADDRESSED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER
KAMWANA WHO TOLD THEM RELEASE WAS WITHOUT CONDITIONS; THAT THEY
WERE FREE TO GO WHERE THEY WISHED AND TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER
JOBS, BUSINESSES OR PROFESSIONS. SINCE MOST OF GROUP WERE FROM
CIVIL SERVICE THEY ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED.

3. SOURCE HIMSELF, A FORMER ASSISTANT D.C., HOPES HE WILL BE
ALLOWED TO RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH A PENION. HE
WAS DETAINED SOME 3 YEARS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISMISSAL
AND CONFINEMENT TO VILLAGE OF FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
JOHN MSONTHI. HE WAS NEVER PHYSICALLY MISTREATED AND SEEMED
IN REASONABLE PHYSICAL CONDITION -- SAID RECEIVED TLO MEALS A
DAY. GREATEST DISCOMFORT WAS BOREDOM AND FRUSTRATION.

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RUMOR IN THE PRISON IS THAT ANOTHER GROUP WILL BE RELEASED IN
MAY FOR KAMUZU DAY (PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY) WHICH WILL INCLUDE
FORMER UNIVERSITY SENIOR OFFICIALS JOHN BANDA AND PETER MWANZA.

4. WE HAVE ALSO LEARED THAT FORMER USIS PART TIME EMPLOYEES MENTIONED
REFTEL WHO WERE MONTORING VOA BROADCASTS WERE AMONG GROUP JUST
RELEASED. FROM OTHER SOURCE WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FORMER MINISTER

IN WASHINGTON, GEORGE BANDA, WAS RELEASED SOMEWHAT EARLIER AND
HAS RETURNED TO HIS HOME TOWN OF NKHATA BAY.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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